Vices and Devices

http://www.vicesndevices.net

Doushiyoumo Nai Karedo Chapter 6

By Natsume Isaku

translate } Nyang
clean } Nuu
edit } Nuu
typeset } Nyang
QC } Schume

たぶんきっと
あの時に

THERE'S BEEN A FESTIVE FEEL IN THE STREETS LATELY WITH CHRISTMAS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER
社長室
...SOMETHING HAPPENS
HUH?
"REDISTRIBUTION OF PERSONNEL"?

A WEEK LATER
Boss
AND EVEN IF IT HAS TO BE NOW, WHY YOU?
WHY NOW?
HE'S A DEMON
WE CAN'T JUST STOP WORKING
BECAUSE IT'S BEEN BUSY
I AM BOTH OVER-JOYED AND SADDENED THAT HE TRUSTS ME SO.
THAT'S WHAT DAD "THE SALES DEPARTMENT SAID ANYWAY. WILL BE FINE WITH KUROKAWA THERE!"
I GUESS I'M KIND OF RELIEVED THAT HE'S HIT SO HARD BY THIS...
SO WE NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS COMPUTERS TO TAKE OVER FOR NOW.
THE ONE WHO JUST LEFT THE SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT, TANAKA-SAN? HE HANDLED A LOT.
Well, it's because I know what I'm doing.
I KNOW THAT!
THE SUDDEN TRANSFERS HAVE BEEN MAKING ME UNEASY

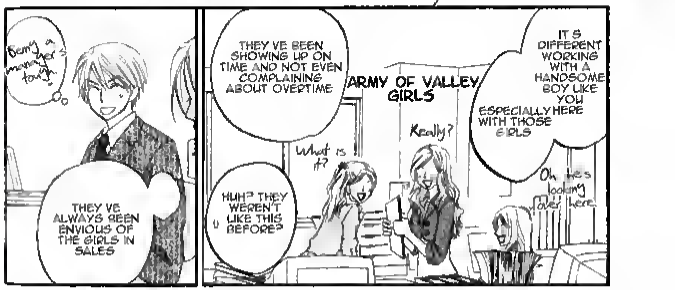
HM.
THE STUFF I CAN'T DO, I HAVE TO FIND OTHER PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF
I HAVE TO TAKE OVER EVERYTHING YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR
BUT ANYONE WHO'S COMPETENT HAS THEIR HANDS FULL HANDLING THEIR OWN WORK
N..
PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
IT'S BEEN DISASTER.
IS IT REALLY THAT BAD IN SALES RIGHT NOW?
OH..
So that's why he had to pull overtime on a weekend.
Being a manager is tough
SO I HAVE TO LEAVE SOME HARD CASES WITH PEOPLE I DON'T TRUST
ADDING TO MY BURDEN
Is this a test?
IF IT'S REALLY THAT BAD, SAY SO.
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG. MAYBE I CAN TRANSFER BACK
HM...
IF THEY REALLY NEED TO, THEY CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE GOOD WITH COMPUTERS
HM
WHAT'S WITH YOU!?
I'll figure it out
FORGET IT.
rub
rub

YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT?
IF I MANAGE IT ON MY OWN, I'M SCORING BROWNIE POINTS, RIGHT?
SFX: BLUSH
DINNER FIRST!
HMM...
STOP THAT! WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD DINNER!
S-stop!
SO,
HE'S WORKING ON HAVING DAD ACCEPT OUR RELATIONSHIP?
I want to learn a bunch of stuff in exchange for moving out
OH BECAUSE MY MOM WAS BEING A NAG ABOUT IT.
SHE WAS WORRIED YOU'D STARVE ON YOUR OWN?
HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO COOK?
Oh hey
DID YOU LEARN FROM SOMEWHERE?

I GUESS IT'S THANKS TO HER THAT I HAVE IT SO GREAT NOW
HEY!
You should be thanking me.
Thanks Mr.S Shimono
I'M SERIOUS
IT'S BEEN REALLY HARD ON ME LATELY WITHOUT YOU AROUND
Eating instant noodles by myself.
WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU MISO SOUP EVERY DAY?
HM?
You can just come to my place!
And it's closer to work here!
'Is- is that why you won't come over!? The cockroaches!?
I even gave you a spare key
We can just hide if Dad shows up
No!
WITH CHRISTMAS...
RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
LIVE WITH ME!
OH YEAH, YOU CAN MOVE IN!
I'm not living somewhere with cockroaches year round!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? NO WAY!
I was just saying!
Y-YOU IDIOT! I'M JUST JOKING!
I can't come here all the time because the boss shows up

THE COLD WEATHER STARTED.
オオオオオオ
SHIMANO
SFX WHOOSH
WHOA.
SFX: P ITTER
GOOD IT LOOKS THING I CAN STAY IN NOW
COLD OUT
whoosh
clack clack
SHIMANO-KUN!
YES?
There's still a lot to go
WOULD YOU PLEASE DO THIS FOR ME AS WELL?
NO PROBLEM

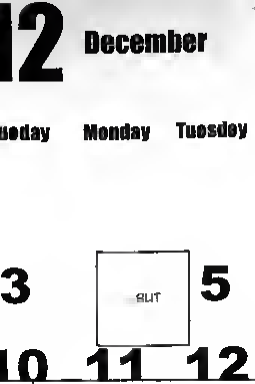
SORRY THAT IT'S SO BUSY EVEN THOUGH YOU JUST TRANS-FERRED
NO PROBLEM. I WAS READY FOR IT
I JUST HOPE I'M HELPING
AND WITH YOU AROUND, EVERYONE'S BEEN REALLY FOCUSING
I'M NOT THE TYPE TO TELL DAD ANYTHING
Hahaa
I MEAN... OH, NOT THAT
YOU'VE BEEN A LIFESAVER!

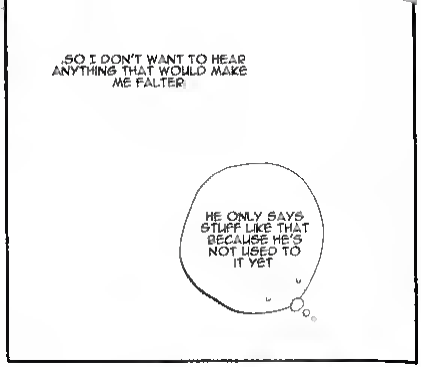

Being a mom's tough...
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN ENVIOUS OF THE GIRLS IN SALES
THEY'VE BEEN SHOWING UP ON TIME AND NOT EVEN COMPLAINING ABOUT OVERTIME
HUH? THEY WEREN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE?
ARMY OF VALLEY GIRLS
What is it?
Really?
IT'S DIFFERENT WORKING WITH A HANDSOME BOY LIKE YOU ESPECIALLY HERE WITH THOSE GIRLS
Oh, he's looking over here.

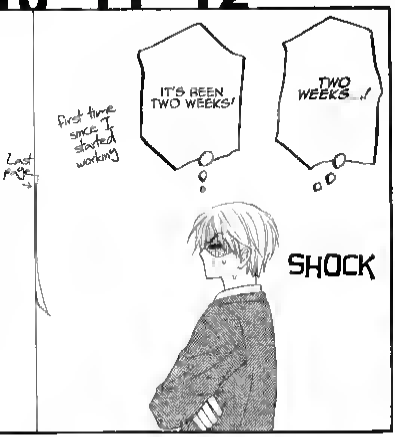
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
HAHAHA
WE ONLY SEE THE PEOPLE IN SALES DURING DINNERS AND MEET-UPS.
I wonder what they would think if they found out I'm with us
AND KUROKAWA-KUN'S THERE, TOO
BA-DUMP

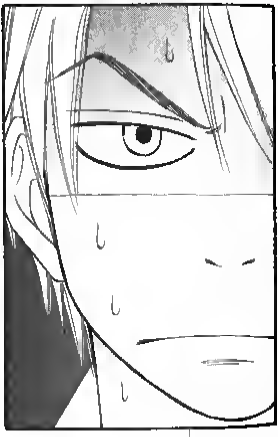
THE SALES PEOPLE DON'T USUALLY STAY IN THE BUILDING AND HAVE MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
NOT LIKE US HERE IN SYSTEMS WHO ARE ALWAYS IN THE OFFICE
Shimano building
Meeting Rooms
Systems
Planning
Sales
Others
OUR DEPARTMENTS ARE ON DIFFERENT FLOORS
IF THERE'S NO OVERLAP IN WORK WE BASICALLY DON'T RUN INTO EACH OTHER
WHAT'S WITH THIS WEEK?
OKAY OKAY
It's not like I want to go.
AND NOW OF ALL TIMES
SO WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WEEK
YOU HAVE MORE STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF?
It's freezing out here! I wish I was there now!
I'M NICE AND TOASTY
Hehe
There's a heater right here.
Whaat!?
SO THE WEEKEND
Meeting clients
I wish it would snow so we could cancel.
In the south
OVER GOLF? WHERE? WHAT IF IT SNOWS?

I'M BUSY TOO YOU KNOW! DON'T GET SICK.
Huh?
GOOD-BYE.
Okay?
If I catch a cold, why don't you come take care of me?
Okay, I gotta go.
OKAY DON'T CATCH COLD
LONELY OLD MAN.
MOVE IN WITH ME...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL ACTUALLY GET SICK ANYWAY!
ME? GO TAKE CARE OF YOU?
I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTRACTED WHEN I'M WORKING
I don't have time for his joking around.
HE HAS TO BE JOKING!
?
distracted


12
December
Monday
Tuesday
3
SLIT
5
10
11
12


SO I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE ME FALTER.
HE ONLY SAYS STUFF LIKE THAT BECAUSE HE'S NOT USED TO IT YET


Last night
First time since I started working
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS!
TWO WEEKS...!
SHOCK



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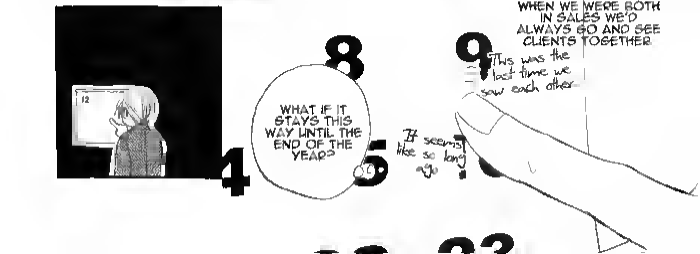
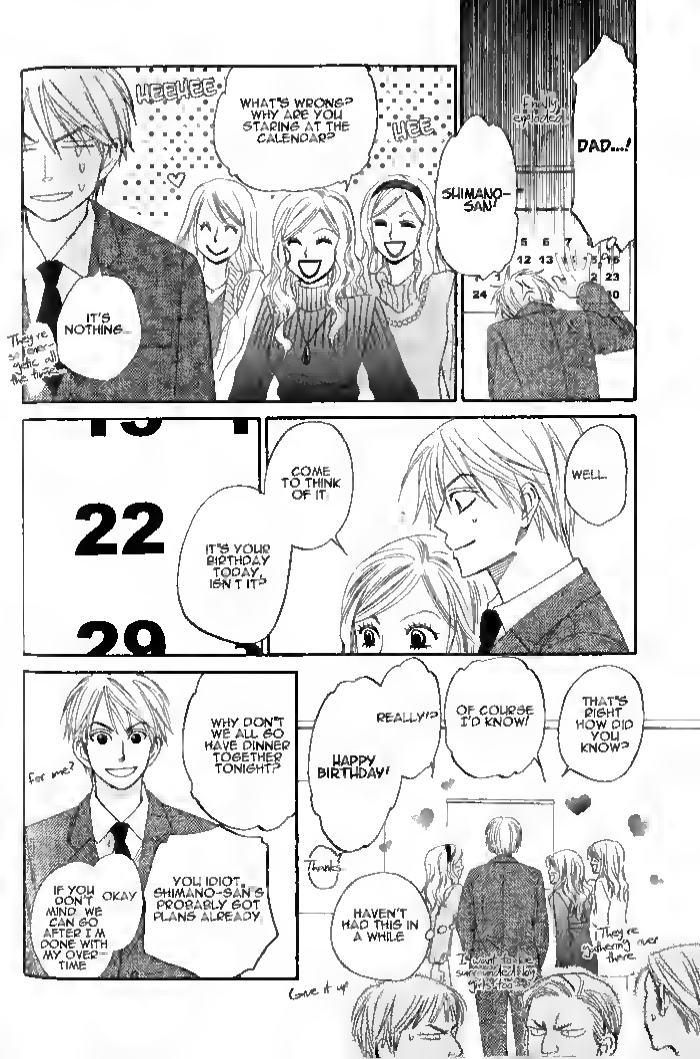

4
8
WHAT IF IT STAYS THIS WAY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR?
5
9
This was the last time we saw each other
It seems like so long ago
WHEN WE WERE BOTH IN SALES WE'D ALWAYS GO AND SEE CLIENTS TOGETHER


HEE HEE
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT THE CALENDAR?
HEE
IT'S NOTHING...
They're so close... all the time...
I really can't believe...
DAD...!
SHIMANO-SAN!
22
29
COME TO THINK OF IT
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY, ISN'T IT?
WELL...
For me?
WHY DON'T WE ALL GO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER TONIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T MIND WE CAN GO AFTER I'M DONE WITH MY OVER-TIME
OKAY
YOU IDIOT, SHIMANO-SAN'S PROBABLY GOT PLANS ALREADY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
REALLY!?
OF COURSE I'D KNOW!
THAT'S RIGHT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
Thanks
HAVEN'T HAD THIS IN A WHILE
They're gathering over there.
Come it up

Good luck to you, and to you!
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND NOW.
UH, SHE'S BUSY
WHAT ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T WANT TO HAVE PLANS...
BUT I GOT CUT OFF BEFORE I COULD EVEN ASK
I'm going to be away until Friday.
If it's okay, can I not be back until Saturday
...OH
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
COMPARED TO PHONE CALLS...
OH WELL, IT'S JUST A BIRTHDAY
EVEN IF I TOLD HIM HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE WITH ME...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT, I WONDER IF WE'LL GET TO SEE EACH OTHER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS...
Is it really okay?...
Sure. It hasn't been long.

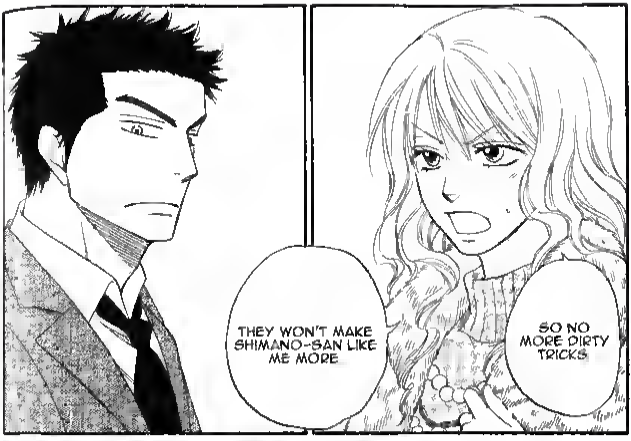
I'D MUCH RATHER TALK TO YOU IN PERSON.

SO THEN...
Within one week:
Hokkaido
↓
Osaka
↓
Tokyo
cross-country trip
I'M FINALLY BACK..
Was also in Okinawa last week
Tokyo's cold

AND THEN GET THE REPORT DONE...
AND I'M FINALLY FINISHED!
TAKE THIS TO Y CORP...
COULD IT BE THE BOSS FOUND OUT?
Sending me back and forth as a warning?
Dump
Probably not
OH...EXCUSE ME.
I JUST WANT TO GET HOME!
DAMNIT, ALL THESE GODDAMN PARTYGOERS!
MENU
Merry Xmas!

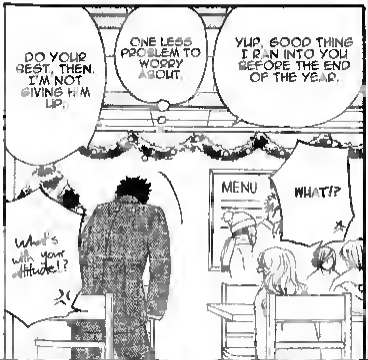
pfft
WHAT THE HELL...?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY?
ME? LEAVE?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU YET!
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON SHIMANO-SAN, YOU KNOW!
Argh
WHY ARE YOU HERE PUTTING A DAMPER ON MY SHOPPING TIME?
Why!?
I WOULD LEAVE EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO.
Why can't I leave?

HEY...
YOU? BETTER THAN ME?
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M THE BETTER PICK!
YOU MUST HAVE TRICKED SHIMANO-SAN SOMEHOW!
Did you put something in his food?
HUH!?
WHY ARE YOU SO PERSISTANT? GIVE IT UP!
You're so annoying!
THOSE ARE SOME ACTING SKILLS YOU HAVE...
Women are scary
SHUT UP! I'M GIVING IT MY ALL, OKAY!?
IN THE END, IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW I LOOKED!
I WAS AN IDIOT, DRESSING UP LIKE A PROPER RICH GIRL LIKE IT WAS COS-PLAY
Cosplay?
WHAT OF IT?
SO THESE ARE YOUR TRUE COLOURS, RIGHT?
Nagging and annoying


THEY WON'T MAKE SHIMANO-SAN LIKE ME MORE
SO NO MORE DIRTY TRICKS

...
IT WOULD GET SHIMANO-SAN INTO TROUBLE TOO!

IF YOU COMPLAINED TO YOUR PARENTS ABOUT LAST TIME—
WELL, THANK GOD FOR THAT
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
WE'D BE IN BIG TROUBLE
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!


DO YOUR BEST, THEN. I'M NOT GIVING HIM UP.
ONE LESS PROBLEM TO WORRY ABOUT.
YUP. GOOD THING I RAN INTO YOU BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
MENU
WHAT!?
What's with your attitude!?

HE'S PROBABLY COMING OVER AFTER WORK THE 24TH
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT? GOOD FOR YOU
Bye
MENU
Merry
No!
HIS BIRTHDAY PRESENT! I FOUND SOMETHING PERFECT!

THAT'S FINE. JUST YOU WAIT
Seems like you didn't get anything ready
HE'LL DEFINITELY COME AROUND
ONCE I GIVE SHIMANO-SAN HIS PRESENT

BIRTHDAY? WHOSE?
SHIMANO-SAN'S! IT'S TODAY

WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
chatter
chatter
3F
GOOD WORK EVERYONE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHIMANO-KUN!
BYE!
Cold
Phew
Bye!
HAVING A BIG PARTY...
IS KIND OF FUN ONCE IN A WHILE...

WHOA!
RRRING
OH, YOUR PHONE
MISSED CALLS?
5 of them?
RRR
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE ISN'T HERE
5 missed calls
12/11(Friday)
23:26
I'LL CALL HIM WHEN I GET BACK
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE! SEE YOU!
GirlFriend!?
HOW COULD HE-
Rrring
Kurokawa Akihiro
HELLO?
WHAT CAN IT BE?
Where are you?

WHY?
WHERE ARE YOU?
Come to my place!
Go home now-
No, don't go back to your place.
HUH?
OUT...
No more questions
I'm going to rush back, too!
Just today, okay?
Get over here now!
beep
beep
beep
click
SFX BAM
バタン
WHAT THE HELL?
Tan!

SFX VROOM
click
I WAS FASTER
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
BECAUSE OF MY BIRTHDAY?
NO WAY
I DIDN'T TELL HIM!
THUMP THUMP
SFX CLACK
QUIET DOWN! IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
TODAY'S ALMOST OVER!
Clack
SFX THUMP THUMP THUD

huff
OH
OKAY...
badump
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
WHY DID YOU WANT TO SEE ME SO MUCH...?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
badump
badump
badump
badump
badump

sniff
HAPPY~

WHY FLOWERS!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW!?
And why are you running!?
You ran into Tenya-chan!?
Tenya told me.
I couldn't catch a train
I CALLED
BIRTHDAY-
...OOF.
I HAVE A STITCH IN MY SIDE...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER!?
I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO GIVE YOU
TO SEE WHAT YOU W..NTED, BUT YOU DIDN'T PICK UP.
AND IT'S SO L..TE THAT ALL THE STORES ARE CLOSED.

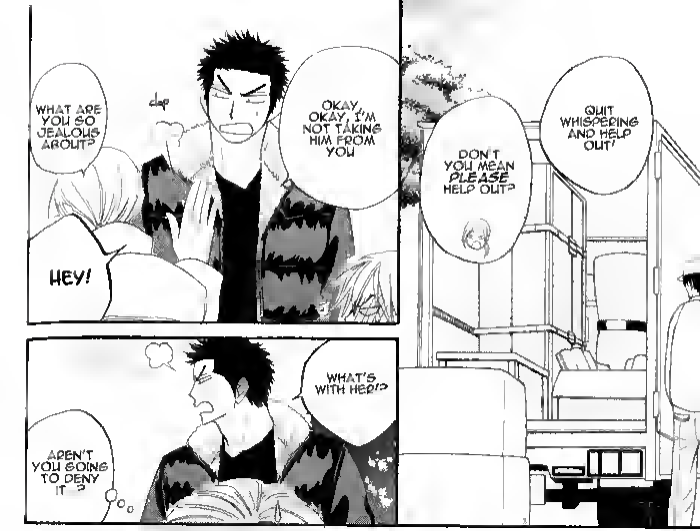
BIRTHDAYS
ARE A BIG DEAL!
IT'S NOT.
HUH? AREN'T THEY?
REALLY?
UH, NO, WELL...
I GUESS SO?
REALLY IMPORTANT!
OH, RIGHT! YEAH!
AREN'T THEY?
RIGHT

THANK YOU.
I'M SO HAPPY
drag drag
Hand in hand
hug

bite
1st
31
It itches!
Don't get me!
nibble nibble nibble
HEY, DON'T SLEEP!
AH, FORGET IT FOR TODAY JUST
You stupid idiot, cheese
HEY, TAKE OFF YOUR COAT!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SHOWER!?
IT FEELS GOOD I'M GOING TO SLEEP
So tired
NO MATTER HOW MANY THINGS GO WRONG
Wash your hands

IN THE END THEY ALL JUST VANISH
AND THERE'S SO MUCH JOY EVEN IN AN ORDINARY DAY
HOW SHOULD WE CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH-DAY NEXT YEAR?
HMM?
It was a surprise that he'd think it was so important
NOT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING THIS AMAZING
THAT'S WHAT I THINK
Come to think of it why not my place?
my legs at this time
Why isn't he back yet!?

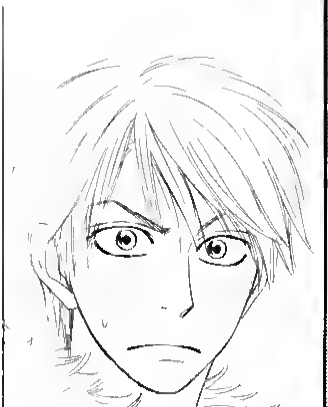
HMM, BIRTHDAY?
HE PROBABLY HAS SOME ISSUES AROUND IT
OH?
THE DAY I FINALLY LEFT HIM WAS MY BIRTHDAY
I FINALLY EXPLODED ON MY BIRTHDAY AFTER THAT WORKAHOLIC KEPT BLOWING ME OFF
Haha
OH, I GET IT
It's just a coincidence...
SIMILAR SITUATIONS
Hahaha
?
BUT YOU KNOW, I REALLY DIDN'T THINK HE'D RUSH STRAIGHT HOME LIKE THAT
YOU CAN REALLY TELL HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU!
Sheesh, I guess he's learnt his lesson...
SUEKO-SAN...
HEY!
Stop winking fun at me...
Don't be shy!


WHAT ARE YOU SO JEALOUS ABOUT?
clap
OKAY, OKAY, I'M NOT TAKING HIM FROM YOU
HEY!
QUIT WHISPERING AND HELP OUT!
DON'T YOU MEAN PLEASE HELP OUT?
WHAT'S WITH HER!?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DENY IT?

SFX. TADA

brand new apartment in a good neighborhood
ど!!ーーん
OH, BECAUSE...
WHY DID YOU WANT TO MOVE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NOTHING MUCH
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT...

NO.
WHAT?
YOUR OLD PLACE LEAKS?
WELL, I WAS THINKING THAT THIS WINTER WAS GOING TO BE TOUGH TO GET THROUGH
To have you over here.
SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PLACE THAT YOU'D WANT TO LIVE IN
AREN'T YOU ALWAYS SAYING THAT IT'S DIRTY THERE?
THAT'S IT
Why else?
THAT'S IT...?
You could just move in...
YOU CAN COME ANY-TIME
IT'S NICE HERE
IT'S CLOSE TO WORK AND THE PARKING LOT'S BIG
blush
I'm not a king.
You're not picky enough.
WHY IS IT THAT YOUR LIFE SEEMS TO...
IF I WAS ALONE A ROOF AND A BED WOULD BE ENOUGH



MAYBE FROM THE SECOND WE MET, IT WAS MEANT TO BE

THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD BECOME LIKE THIS

End

The part on page 8 with the caption referring to the secretaries as "army of valley girls" was actually "army of gyaru" in the original, gyaru being a subculture of shallow young women who are considered too into their looks, boys, and consumer culture. Valley girls seem like the closest English equivalent